



Take I 65 to
Harding Place, Exit 78.
Travel west on Harding Place (or
Battery Lane) to Granny White Pike.
Turn left and travel south to Otter
Creek Road and turn left (across from
Granny White Market).



Tennessee Department of Environment and
Conservation authorization no. 327152, 10,000
copies. This public document was promulgated
at a cost of \$.04 per copy, November 2005.

Hours of Operation:
Park hours: open daily 6:00am until 30 minutes past sunset
Visitor's Center: open daily 8:30am - 4:00pm; closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00

For Further Information, Contact:

Radnor Lake State Natural Area / 1160 Otter Creek Road / Nashville, TN. 37220
Phone (615) 373-3467
Or Contact: Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor / Nashville, TN 37243
Phone (888) 867-2757 / www.tnstateparks.com

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation EEO/AA coordinator at (888) 867-2757 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 592-0059 for further information. Hearing-impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service at (800) 848-0298.

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS RADNOR LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA





Radnor Lake State Natural Area

is located in the Overton Hills, remnants of the western highland rim, seven miles south of downtown Nashville. This 1,200-acre area preserves beautiful scenery and a diversity of natural habitats. Aquatic resources include the lake, small streams, and a placid slough. Terrestrial habitats of young and mature forest cover the hills and hollows. The area has some of the highest elevations in the Nashville Basin. Wildlife is amazingly abundant. Birds are numerous, especially during migration, and when wintering waterfowl are present. Most visitors see deer and turtles and some get to see other reptiles, amphibians, and mammals such as beaver and river otter. Literally hundreds of species of plants live here. Spring wildflowers grow in spectacular abundance and lush growths of herbs, mosses, fungi, and ferns grow in season while shrubs, vines, and magnificent trees are ever present.

Visitors' Center

There is a Visitor Center located at the West Entrance that provides information including maps, brochures, and interpretive exhibits. Information is also available at the East entrance restroom kiosk and at the historic caretaker's residence kiosk at the spillway bridge.

Hiking & Biking

The trail system at Radnor includes 6 miles of hiking trails around the lake and thru the hills. Otter Creek Road and the road across the dam provide a paved venue for walking, biking, and walking pets.

Planned Programs

Park Ranger led environmental educational programs ranging from wildflower hikes to reptile programs are available at a variety of times. A program schedule listing programs led by state park rangers is available at the Visitor Center or at www.radnorlake.org.

Historical Significance

The 85-acre lake was impounded in 1914 by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company to furnish water for steam engines and the livestock at the nearby Radnor Rail Yard. It was also intended to provide hunting and fishing preserve for L&N employees and their guests. Wildlife, especially birds, was abundant even in these early years of the lake. In 1923, the executive vice president of L&N stopped all hunting and declared the area a wildlife sanctuary at the request of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. The railroad's use of the water ended in the 1940's and in 1962 the area was sold and plans for home sites were developed. Public sentiment for preservation of the area started growing immediately. Unfortunately, Nashville's attempts to acquire the land for the Board of Parks and Recreation were unsuccessful. Finally, in 1973, the State of Tennessee with the financial assistance of the federal government and thousands of concerned citizens purchased the site as the first official component of the State Natural Areas System.

FAQ

Q: What makes Radnor Lake unique?

A: Radnor Lake is one of the largest pockets of wilderness in the United States in close proximity to a major city. Status as a protected ecosystem allows a remarkable diversity and abundance of wildlife and plant life to thrive. Approximately 240 species of birds, 26 of these waterfowl, have been identified at Radnor.

